

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as currently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-28 are currently pending. The present Amendment amend Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 11, and 12; cancels Claim 10 without prejudice or disclaimer; and adds Claims 13-28. The changes and additions to the claims are supported by the originally filed application. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to because of informalities; the specification was objected to because of informalities; Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite; Claims 1, 2, 5-8, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Maeda et al. (Japanese Patent No. 2001-180043, in translation as U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0028387, herein “Maeda”); Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Maeda in view of Neary (U.S. Patent No. 6,151,152); Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Maeda in view of Takeyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,256,461, herein “Takeyama”); and Claims 3, 4, and 10 were objected to but noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in the claims.

In response to the objection to the drawings, Claim 11 is amended to remove the “switching unit” thus rendering the objection to the drawings moot. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

In response to the objection to the specification, the specification is amended to correct the cited informalities. Accordingly, the grounds for the objection are believed to have been overcome. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

In response to the rejection of Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claim 7 is amended to correct the noted informalities. Specifically, Claim 7 now recites “turned on” rather than “booted” which finds non-limiting support in the originally filed application at page 15, lines 12-14. In view of amended Claim 7, it is believed that all pending claims are definite and no further rejection on that basis is anticipated. If, however, the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually acceptable language.

In response to the objection to allowable Claim 10, independent Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the features of Claim 10. Accordingly, Claim 10 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claim 1 and all associated dependent claims are now allowable.

In response to the objection to allowable Claims 3 and 4, Claims 3 and 4 are amended to incorporate the features of independent Claim 1. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objection to allowable Claims 3 and 4, which are now rewritten in independent form, be withdrawn.

Further, new Claims 13-28 are added to vary the scope of protection recited in the claims. New Claims 13-28 merely recite different combinations of previously claimed features and thus find non-limiting support in the original claims. Therefore, the changes to the claims are not believed to raise a question of new matter.¹ Moreover, Claims 13-28 all recite allowable features of Claims 3, 4, or 10, and are believed to be allowable.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-9 and 11-28 is earnestly solicited.

¹ See M.P.E.P. 2163.06 stating that “information contained in any one of the specification, claims or drawings of the application as filed may be added to any other part of the application without introducing new matter.”

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Surinder Sachar

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423